

**Meeting Notes
North Delta Agency Team
April 28, 2004**

The following provides a summary of the North Delta Agency Team Meeting held on April 28, 2004. The next NDAT meeting will be scheduled at a future date to coincide with the further refinement of the project alternatives.

Attendees:

| | |
|----------------------|------------------------------|
| Gwen Knittweis – DWR | Collette Zemitis – DWR |
| Bill Dutton – USBR | Suzanne DeLeon – DFG |
| Ken Trott – CDFA | Jeannie Blakeslee – DOC/DCRP |
| Chris Elliott – J&S | April Zohn – J&S |

Members Invited but not Present:

| | |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Brad Burkholder – DFG | Paul Bowers – USACE |
| Margit Aramburu – DPC | Shanna Draheim – EPA |
| Ryan Olah – USFWS | Rosalie Del Rosario – NOAA Fisheries |
| Evelyne Gulli – SLC | Frank Wernette – DFG |
| Dennis O'Bryant - DOC | Shelby McCoy - RWQCB |
| Diane Windham – NMFS | Terry Mills – CBDA |
| Steve Shaffer – CDFA | Pete Rabbon – DWR/Rec Board |
| Rod Johnson – CBDA | Rebecca Wren – USACE |
| Craig Stevens – J&S | Jim Starr – DFG |
| Kathy Dadey – EPA | Matthew Reischman - CVRWQCB |
| Marina Brand – DFG | Mike Jewel – USACE |
| Ron Ott – CBDA | Scott Cantrell – DFG |
| Bellory Fong – CBDA | Mike Finan – USACE |
| Curt Schmutte – DWR | Mike Aceituno – NOAA Fisheries |
| Patricia Fernandez – CBDA | Jeff Stuart – NOAA Fisheries |

Handouts:

Graphic of North Delta Study Area
North Delta Purpose & Need Statement
Narrative description of flood control and ecosystem restoration project alternatives
Graphics of flood control (4) and ecosystem restoration (3) alternatives
Updated Project Permitting Timeline

Notes:

I. Project Update. Gwen Knittweis provided the following updated North Delta Information:

- a. **Schedule and Federal Lead Agency.** Gwen Knittweis presented the following updated project schedule. A federal lead agency for the project has still not been decided.

| | |
|------------------|-------------|
| Public Draft EIR | Fall 2004 |
| Final Draft EIR | Spring 2005 |
| Design Complete | Fall 2005 |

- b. **Purpose & Need and Study Area.** Gwen Knittweis presented the group with the more recent version of the purpose & need statement, and a graphic of the study area. As summarized for the group, the purpose of the North Delta Flood Control and Ecosystem Restoration Project is to implement flood control improvements in a manner that benefits aquatic and terrestrial habitats, species, and ecological processes. Flood control improvements are needed to reduce damage to land uses, infrastructure, and the Bay-Delta ecosystem resulting from overflows caused by insufficient channel capacities and catastrophic levee failures within the proposed project study area.
- c. **Alternatives Development.** Based on additional input from the North Delta Science Advisory Panel, DWR has developed three ecosystem restoration options that will be evaluated in the EIR. These options, termed (1) *fluvial max – minimal control*, (2) *fish eco max – maximum control*, and (3) *floodplain/subsidence reversal wetland hybrid*,

were presented to the group, along with narrative descriptions of their components. In addition, four flood control options, three associated with detention basins on Staten Island, and one associated with dredging/levee raising, were presented to the group.

These options will be presented as three basic alternatives in the EIR: (1) No project, (2) Alternative 1 – Flood Management with Detention Basins, and (3) Alternative 2 – Flood Management without Detention Basins. The four flood control options will be evaluated separately under Alternatives 1 and 2 (i.e., the three detention basin options will be evaluated under Alternative 1, and the dredging/levee raising option under Alternative 2). Each of the ecosystem restoration options will be evaluated as components of each of the different flood control options under both Alternatives 1 and 2. DWR does not intend to identify a preferred alternative in the public draft EIR.

DWR asked that the NDAT review the alternatives material presented at the meeting and provide any comments to April Zohn (azohn@jsanet.com) by May 17, 2004.

- d. **ASIP.** Since a preferred alternative will not be identified in the DRAFT EIR, DWR has requested that the ASIP committee convene to help identify the impacts, conservation measures, and adaptive management measures that should be disclosed in the DRAFT EIR, and that should be included in the project description. After a preferred alternative has been selected, the ASIP Committee will again be asked to participate in preparation of the ASIP document. A preferred alternative will be presented in the FINAL EIR. DWR anticipates that the ASIP committee will be asked to meet at the end of May/beginning of June 2004.

II. Permit Timeline. An updated permit timeline illustrating how the CEQA and federal, state, and local regulatory requirements interact with each other was presented to the group. The following conclusions were derived from that discussion:

- The wetland delineation for Staten Island was submitted to USACE on 4/22/04. A pre-application meeting to discuss the CWA 404(b)(1) alternatives analysis has been scheduled for 10:00, May 6, 2004.
- The timeline associated with the ASIP process will be adjusted to reflect preparation of the admin and public draft ASIP after publication of the Public Draft EIR. This will allow the ASIP document to focus on evaluation of only the preferred alternative.
- Gwen Knittweis will give a presentation to the Working Landscapes Committee on July 1, 2004.
- Gwen Knittweis provided a written status update for the February 2004 Delta Protection Commission meeting and made a formal presentation at the September 2003 DPC meeting.

Action Items:

1. The NDAT will provide comments on the project alternatives to April Zohn (azohn@jsanet.com) by May 17, 2004.
2. DWR and Jones & Stokes will update the list of related projects in the Delta, currently discussed in Chapter 1 of the EIR, and distribute the chapter for review to the NDAT. This will include an update on the DCC reoperation and the status of Delta Wetlands.
3. When complete, the alternatives chapter of the EIR will be distributed to the NDAT for review and comment.
4. An ASIP committee meeting will be held the end of May/beginning of June 2004. Date to be determined.
5. Jeannie Blakeslee will determine if Deadhorse Island would be subject to Williamson Act requirements, if purchased, and will provide the group with notification requirements, if appropriate.
6. Gwen will make a presentation to the Working Landscapes Committee on July 1, 2004.
7. Jones and Stokes will update the permit timeline as discussed in II.

Next Meeting:

The next NDAT meeting will be scheduled at a later date.